

Gentlemen;

I strongly urge you to resist the move to "loosen up" the Broadcast Ownership rules, which would allow further concentration and monopolization of "The Public Airwaves". While I strongly believe in the free market, the issue before you here is not simply a dollar and cents or freedom from government interference to innovate issue. What is at stake is the critical issue of "The Public Airwaves'" role as conduit for the "Press" in the modern age. Since I was a Broadcast Journalism student in the 1970's, every major study of the subject has shown that the majority of the American public gets the majority of the information that they base their voting decisions on, from television! In addition, they give television more credibility than other media, when confronted with a discrepancy between sources. The role of television news is critical to our democratic system, and the existence of a broad and diverse press is critical to maintaining a large pool of information, presented from many perspectives, along with a wide range of opinions, so that the American voter has the best possible information, to make the best possible choices for our country, when they exercise their "sacred duty" in the voting booth. Please use the power entrusted to You to do the right thing for the American people and our democratic system of government! Please vote to maintain - or better yet - further restrict the number of outlets any one group can monopolize in a market. Please vote to make sure that the "Public Airwaves" serve the public - and are not used as the exclusive prize trophies of modern day moguls and monopolists! Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. Mark Kouba, San Anselmo, California.